

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 AID-07 ABF-01 FBO-01 A-01 USIA-12

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R 242135Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8705

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 2944

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CI

SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF SPACE IN CENADI BUILDING

REF: (A) STATE 93180, MAY 6, 1974

(B) STATE 190423, OCTOBER 18, 1972

(C) STATE 101021, MAY 15, 1974

1. JOINT STATE-USIA-AID TELEGRAM (REF. B) GAVE AUTHORIZATION FOR USIS TO LEASE THE SIXTH FLOOR OF THE CENADI BUILDING AND GAVE APPROVAL FOR AID TO ASSUME THE LEASE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR. THIS JOINT APPROVAL CAME AFTER LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OWNERS OF THE BUILDING AND AFTER THEY AGREED TO ABSORB THE COST OF MOVING THEIR SIXTH FLOOR OFFICES TO OTHER SPACES WITHIN THE BUILDING. THIS MOVE WAS NOT ONLY VERY COSTLY TO THE OWNERS BUT ALSO IT WAS MADE AT A GREAT INCONVENIENCE AND DISRUPTION TO THE BUSINESSES INVOLVED.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN PLANNING THE JOINTLY AGREED MOVE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS AND HAS PLANNED SEVERAL MORE MOVES PREDICATED ON THE INITIAL MOVE OF USIS TO THE SIXTH FLOOR AND OF AID TO THE FIFTH FLOOR. MUCH HARD WORK AND PLANNING IN DIFFERENT ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION HAVE GONE INTO THIS EFFORT.

3. THE OWNERS SUFFERED SEVERAL SETBACKS DURING THEIR MOVE FROM SIXTH FLOOR AND WERE UNABLE TO KEEP ON SCHEDULE

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BECAUSE OF SCARCITY OF MATERIALS AND INABILITY TO KEEP

WORKMEN ON THE JOB DURING A TIME OF GENERAL STRIFE THROUGH-
OUT THE COUNTRY. THE WORK WAS LAGGING BEHIND SCHEDULE SO
BADLY THAT THE DCM AND THE AMBASSADOR HAD TO INTERVENE
TO GET THE JOB COMPLETED. THE SIXTH FLOOR WAS FINALLY VACATED AND
TURNED OVER TO USIS AND REMODELING BEGAN EARLY THIS YEAR,
ABOUT A YEAR AND HALF AFTER RECEIVING AUTHORITY TO GO
AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT.

4. THE MOVE INTO THE CHANCERY OF KEY ELEMENTS OF AID
WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL IN THAT THEY COULD WORK BACK-TO-BACK
WITH THE ECONOMIC SECTION AS WELL AS CLOSE TO THE AMBASSADOR AND DCM.
FROM A SECURITY ASPECT, AID CLASSIFIED MATERIAL WOULD BE SAFEGUARDED
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER'S RECOMMENDA-
TION MADE IN HIS SECURITY SURVEY MARCH 1973. THIS MOVE WOULD
ALSO PROVIDE BETTER PROTECTION FOR U.S. EMPLOYEES
THAN THEY NOW HAVE.

5. THE ABOVE MOVES ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE EMBASSY
AS OTHER MOVES ARE PREDICATED ON THE MOVE OF THE ECONOMIC
SECTION FROM THE NINTH FLOOR. IT HAS BEEN PLANNED FOR
SOMETIME TO MOVE THE POLITICAL SECTION FROM THEIR CRAMPED
AND INSUFFICIENT OFFICES ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR. ANOTHER,
AND IMPERATIVE MOVE, IS THAT OF THE LABOR ATTACHE FROM
THE EIGHTH FLOOR AS HIS OFFICE WILL BE THE PASSAGEWAY
FROM THE ELEVATORS TO THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE ONCE USIS
MOVES TO THE SIXTH FLOOR AND THE EMBASSY IMPLEMENTS ITS
NEW INTERNAL SECURITY PLAN. THE EMBASSY WILL NOT HAVE
EVEN ONE SUITABLE OFFICE FOR THE LABOR ATTACHE UNLESS
SPACE IS CREATED ELSEWHERE IN THE EMBASSY . THE ONLY
POSSIBLE LOCATION IS THE NINTH FLOOR NOW OCCUPIED BY THE
ECONOMIC SECTION.

6. OTHER MOVES ARE PLANNED BY OTHER AGENCIES AND ALTHOUGH
THEY ARE NOT CONTINGENT UPON THE OTHER MOVES OUTLINED
ABOVE, IT WOULD HELP CONSIDERABLY IF MORE SPACE WERE
AVAILABLE ON THE NINTH FLOOR. THESE MOVES WILL BE FUNDED
BY THE RESPECTIVE AGENCIES.

7. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE TO REMIND THE DEPARTMENT
THAT THE SPACE SITUATION IN THE EMBASSY IS CRITICAL,
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OR THAT THE LAST TWO INSPECTION TEAMS WERE BOTH SHOCKED
AT THE DEPLORABLE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE EMBASSY,
ESPECIALLY IN THE POLITICAL SECTION. THE MOVE OF THE
ECONOMIC SECTION IS THE MASTER KEY NECESSARY TO SOLVE
THIS ACUTE SPACE PROBLEM AND THE EMBASSY URGES THE
DEPARTMENT NOT TO REVOKE THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN REF B
AND TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE MOVES OF USIS AND
AID GO AHEAD AS NOW PLANNED.

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